

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 142125
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /015 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:IO/UNA:BJSHARP

APPROVED BY:IO/UNA:JFTERRT

-----080586 060407Z /23

O 060147Z JUN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 7191

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 142125

FOR AMB. YOUNG FROM UNA

FOL HAVANA 1494 SENT ACTION SECSTATE JUN 1, 1978 REPEATED TO
YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 1494

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, CU, US

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTRY INQUIRES ABOUT FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS
IN US-CUBAN RELATIONS

1. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS (MINREZ) DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF
NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS (ZAMORA) CALLED IN ACTING USINT CHIEF,
JUNE 1, FOR DISCUSSION OF MINOR ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER (SEPTTEL).
REAL PURPOSE OF SUMMONS, HOWEVER, APPEARED TO BE DESIRE TO QUERY
USINT ON NEXT MOVES IN US-CUBAN RELATIONS. ZAMORA'S PRINCIPAL
CONCERN WAS WHETHER CURRENT US CRITICISM OF CUBA'S AFRICAN
POLICY IS ONLY TRANSITORY AND WHETHER US INTENDS TO CLOSE
INTERESTS SECTIONS IN HAVANA AND WASHINGTON.

2. ON FORMER POINT, ACTING USINT CHIEF TOLD ZAMORA THAT: A) CUBAN
MILITARY PRESENCE IN AFRICA IS OBVIOUSLY OF CENTRAL CONCERN IN
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WASHINGTON, B) CUBAN LEADERSHIP, AFTER PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT
STATEMENTS, SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY DOUBTS ON THIS POINT, AND
C) CUBANS SHOULD NOT MISTAKE PERIODIC DIFFERENT EMPHASIS IN
WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK STATEMENTS AS EVIDENCE THAT ADMIN-
ISTRATION IS NOT COMMITTED TO SEEKING CUBAN TROOP WITH-
DRAWALS.

3. ON INTERESTS SECTION CLOSING, ACTING USINT CHIEF STATED THAT NO INSTRUCTIONS HAVE YET BEEN RECEIVED ON REDUCING OR CLOSING INTERESTS SECTIONS. HOPES WAS EXPRESSED BY ACTING USINT CHIEF THAT MINREX WOULD DO ITS UTMOST TO ENSURE THAT USINT COULD PURSUE ITS OPERATIONS SUCCESSFULLY HERE AND THAT LONG-DELAYED APPOINTMENTS WITH CUBAN OFFICIALS WOULD BE GRANTED. ZAMORA STATED THAT CUBANS HAVE WORKED HARD TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH US AND THAT RECEPTION OF LYLE LANE BY FIDEL CASTRO AND CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ WAS EVIDENCE OF THIS. HE ASSERTED, IN CONTRACT, THAT NEITHER SECRETARY VANCE NOR PRESIDENT CARTER HAS EVER RECEIVED CUBAN INTERESTS SECTION CHIEF RAMON SANCHEZ PARODI. ACTING USINT CHIEF STATED THAT LANE'S MEETINGS, ALBEIT INFREQUENT, WERE APPRECIATED, BUT WHAT IS NEEDED IS CONTINUOUS, ACCURATE COMMUNICATION OF CUBAN POSITIONS AND INTENTIONS, PARTICULARLY IN CRISIS AREAS SUCH AS AFRICA.

4. ZAMORA ALLOWED THAT ATTACK ON DR. BRZEZINSKI (REFTEL) HAD COME AS SURPRISE TO MINREX PERSONNEL, ALTHOUGH SOME RESPONSE HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO US ADMINISTRATION STATEMENTS ON CUBA. ZAMORA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHO WROTE THE ATTACK, BUT SAID THAT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT IT WAS AUTHORIZED AT HIGHEST CUBAN LEVELS. HE SCOFFED AT IDEA THAT SOVIETS HAD AUTHORED PIECE.

5. AS AN ASIDE, ZAMORA STATED THAT CUBAN VICE-PRESIDENT
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CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ WOULD PROBABLY BE RETURNING TO HAVANA FROM US SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT ON WEEKEND OF JUNE 3-4. GLASSMAN UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE142125
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/UNA:BJSHARP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780235-0375
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780691/aaaadabh.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: abdce390-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2474039
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTRY INQUIRES ABOUT FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN US-CUBAN RELATIONS
TAGS: PDEV, PEPR, CU, US
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/abdce390-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014